

State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources
DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES

March 28, 2008

Board of Land and
Natural Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii

REQUESTING FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY CLOSURE TO
BOTTOMFISHING (APPROXIMATELY 5 MONTHS) FOR ALL STATE
MARINE WATERS SURROUNDING EXISTING BOTTOMFISH RESTRICTED
FISHING AREAS WITHIN THE MAIN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

Submitted for your consideration is a request for final approval of a temporary closure (approximately 5 months in duration) effective immediately, up to and including August 31, 2008, to bottomfishing for all State marine waters within the main Hawaiian Islands (Hawaii to Niihau/Kaula Rock) not currently held with Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas (BRFAs). This closure would complement an anticipated federal closure to bottomfish fishing for all federal marine waters in the main Hawaiian Islands.

This action is necessary to appropriately manage bottomfish stocks for a federally declared state of overfishing of bottomfish species in the main Hawaiian Islands. The federal fisheries agency, NOAA Fisheries, had proposed a summer season closure to fishing in all federal marine waters, effective May 1, 2008 and to end on August 31, 2008. This was based on an estimate that the total fishing effort expended that began from October 1, 2007 would be attained on/around May 1, 2008. This total fishing effort has been reached and fishing must end a month earlier than expected.

Although both agencies, federal and state are currently in the process of amending their fishing regulations for bottomfish, complementary provisions are not yet in place, and this closure is needed to avoid the overfishing of valuable bottomfish species.

The attached maps (see Exhibits A1-A5) identify the extent of State waters to be closed effective immediately to August 31, 2008. The areas delineated in colored hatching on the main Hawaiian Islands map (A-1), and further detailed (colored polygons) on a series of larger scale maps (A2-A5), represent existing closed bottomfish restricted fishing areas (BRFAs). These BRFAs remain closed, with the new action proposed herein closing all additional State marine waters

Board of Land and
Natural Resources
March 28, 2008
Page 2

surrounding them for a period of approximately 5 months. Upon approval by the Board, these maps would be filed with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, and become effective on/around April 7, 2008. Fishing for bottomfish would resume on September 1, 2008.

RECOMMENDATION:

“That the Board approve this temporary closure (approximately 5 months in duration) of State marine waters in the main Hawaiian Islands to bottomfishing surrounding the existing Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas.”

Respectfully submitted,



DAN A. POLHEMUS,
Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



LAURA H. THIELEN, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Attachments

Exhibit A: Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas (BRFAs) 3/28/08

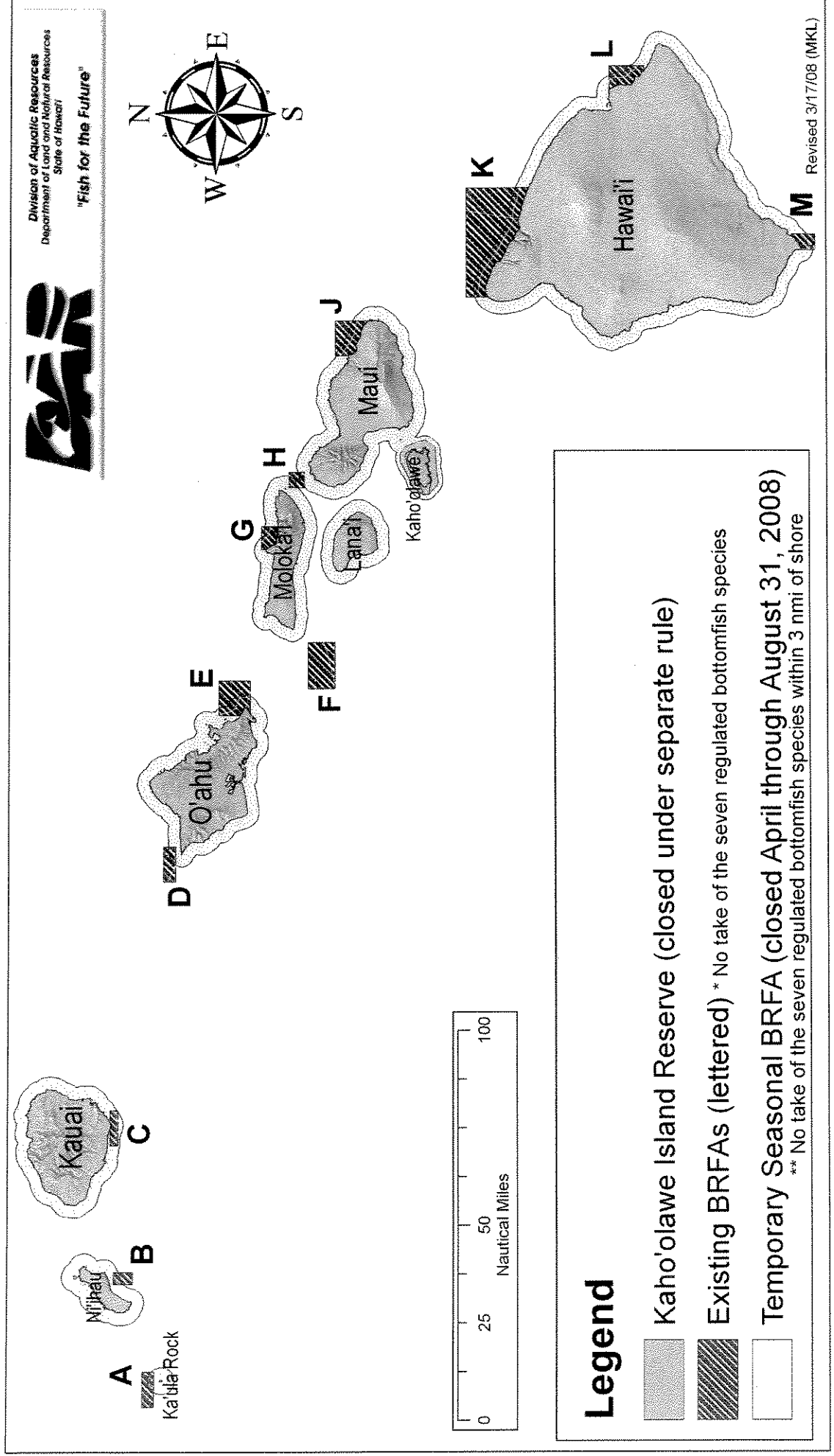


Exhibit A2: Kauai County BRFAs

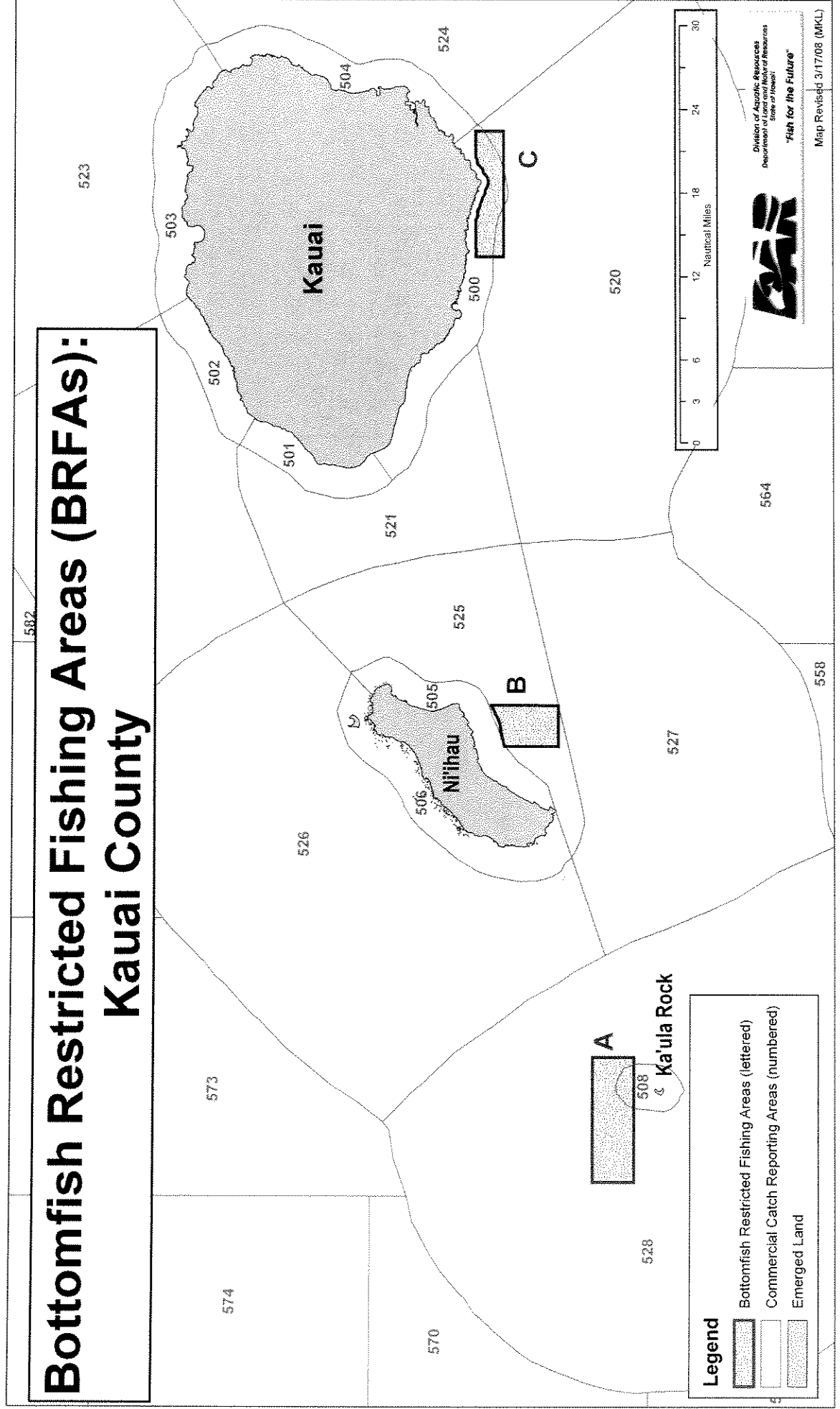
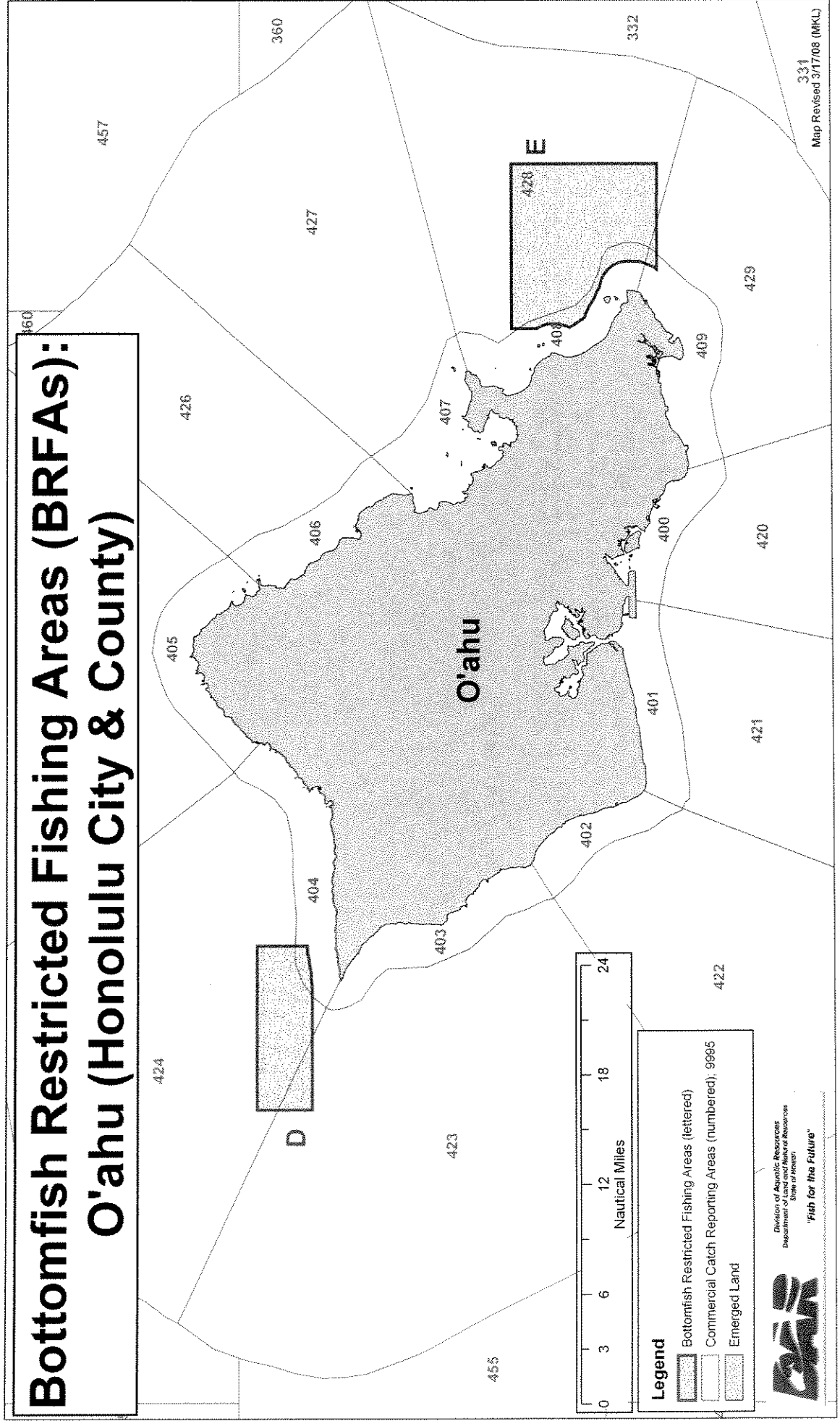


Exhibit A3: Honolulu C&C BRFAs



Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas (BRFAs): Maui County

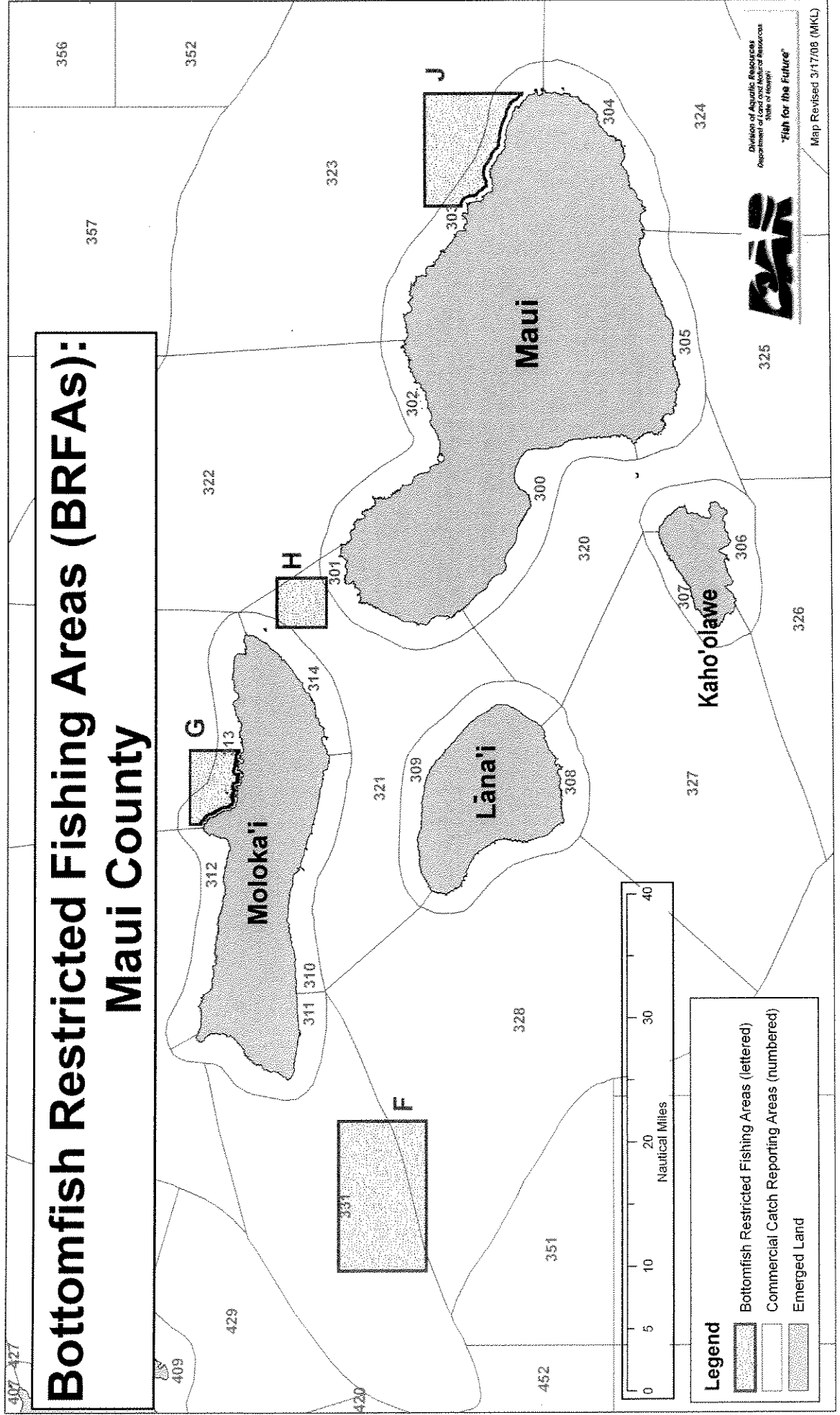


Exhibit A5: Hawai'i County BRFAs

